

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 37285

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DEPARTMENT PASS S/CL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OECD, NATO
SUBJECT: 1977 MINISTERIAL MEETING IN RELATION TO
ECONOMIC SUMMIT AND 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARSHALL PLAN

1. OECD AMBASSADORS OF CANADA, FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, JAPAN, UK AND US (THE PUERTO-RICO SUMMIT COUNTRIES AS WELL AS COUNTRIES WHICH ARE THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF OECD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE) HELD RECENT INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH SECRETARY-GENERAL VAN LENNEP. THEY REVIEWED RELATION TO PROSPECTIVE ECONOMIC SUMMIT OF THE SEVEN AND COMMEMORATION OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARSHALL PLAN (JUNE OF 1977). THE DISCUSSION RAISED SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS THE NEW ADMINISTRATION MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER IN DECIDING ON SCENARIO FOR MAJOR MEETINGS IN FIRST HALF OF NEXT YEAR.

2.) ON ASSUMPTION THAT THERE WILL BE AN EARLY SUMMIT MEETING OF THE PUERTO-RICO GROUP OF COUNTRIES, THE FIRST QUESTION ADDRESSED WAS WHAT SHOULD BE THE ROLE AND TIMING OF OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING IN RELATIONSHIP TO
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THE SUMMIT? CONSENSUS WAS THAT OECD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL WHICH IN LAST TWO MEETINGS HAS INCLUDED FOREIGN AND FINANCE MINISTERS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES, SHOULD BE HELD PRIOR TO SUMMIT AND SOMEHOW SERVE AS PREPARATORY STAGE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE JUNE 1976 MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING DELIBERATIONS ON COMMON STRATEGY ON SUSTAINABLE MEDIUM-

TERM GROWTH AS WELL AS ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES WERE LATER DRAWN ON FOR PUERTO-RICO DISCUSSION AND FINAL COMMUNIQUE. GROUP ALSO FELT THAT OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD SHORTLY AFTER A SUMMIT WOULD BE ANTI-CLIMATIC, AND POSSIBLY RESENTED BY COUNTRIES NOT PARTICIPATING IN PUERTO-RICO SUMMIT AS MERELY REGISTERING AT LOWER LEVEL WHAT BIG SEVEN HAD JUST DECIDED AT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL.

3.) A SECOND QUESTION CONSIDERED WAS RELATIONSHIP OF OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING TO COMMEMORATION OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARSHALL PLAN. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE ONLY PROPOSAL FOR COMMEMORATING THIS EVENT IS A SYMPOSIUM TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR PARIS ON JUNE 2 AND 3 ORGANIZED WITH THE HELP OF MARSHALL PLAN FOUNDATION, ATLANTIC COUNCIL, AND INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS (LINCOLN GORDON AND ROBERT MARJOLIN). THE FUTURE ORIENTED SYMPOSIUM, WITH PARTICIPATION OF SOME TWO HUNDRED DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FROM BOTH THE MARSHALL PLAN GENERATION AND THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF LEADERS, WOULD EXAMINE MAJOR ISSUES AND CHALLENGES TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES OVER NEXT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

4.) SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE HAS BEEN INVITED BY LINCOLN GORDON TO BE ONE OF THE TWO KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AT AN OFFICIAL BANQUET ON THIS OCCASION (PRIME MINISTER RAYMOND BARRE HAS BEEN INVITED TO BE THE EUROPEAN SPEAKER). IF THE OECD MINISTERIAL, USUALLY HELD IN MAY OR JUNE WERE TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE

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SYMPOSIUM IT WOULD PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION FOR OFFICIAL COMMEMORATION BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. ASSUMING SECRETARIES-DESIGNATE VANCE AND BLUMENTHAL FOLLOW THE PRECEDENT OF THEIR PREDECESSORS AND ATTEND THE OECD MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, THEN SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE, ALREADY IN PARIS FOR THE MINISTERIAL, COULD MORE CONVENIENTLY ACCEPT INVITATION AS BANQUET KEYNOTE SPEAKER.

5.) POSSIBILITY WAS ALSO RAISED OF HOLDING A MEETING OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF OECD COUNTRIES ON THIS OCCASION. SUCH A MEETING WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE LARGELY CEREMONIAL, AS WERE THE THREE NATO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETINGS. IT WOULD BE A FITTING OCCASION TO DEMONSTRATE PUBLICLY EARLY IN CARTER PRESIDENCY THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES' RENEWED COMMITMENT TO DEALING WITH THE NEW

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CHALLENGES OF INTERDEPENDENCE BY INTENSIFYING ECONOMIC COOPERATION. THE OECD IDENTIFIED SO CLOSELY WITH THE AMERICAN INITIATIVE IN THE MARSHALL PLAN WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE SETTING FOR SUCH A MEETING WHICH WOULD INCLUDE VIRTUALLY ALL THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AS SUCH.

6.) WHILE A MEETING OF THIS SIZE WOULD NOT BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE VEHICLE TO TRANSACT BUSINESS, IT COULD PROVIDE OCCASION FOR A DAY OR TWO OF DISCUSSION AMONG THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF KEY COUNTRIES OF THE PUERTO-RICO CONFERENCE AND COULD ALSO HAVE CONSIDERABLE SYMBOLIC AND POLITICAL IMPORTANCE AT A TIME WHEN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN ECONOMIC RECOVERY WAS OF CRITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. A SCENARIO COULD BE DEVISED TO INFORM AND OBTAIN THE GENERAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE LARGER GATHERING OF THE RESULT OF THE SMALLER MEETING OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF OECD'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. SUCH A SCENARIO MIGHT BE THE SOLUTION TO THE ISSUE OF THE SENSIBILITIES OF SOME OF THE SMALLER COUNTRIES AND OF THE COMMUNITY REGARDING A SUMMIT OF SEVEN. SINCE PARIS WOULD BE THE LOGICAL VENUE OF SUCH A MEETING, IT MIGHT ALSO SERVE AS THE OCCASION FOR A NATO

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HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING WHICH GISCARD MIGHT FIND IT POLITICALLY POSSIBLE TO ATTEND.

7.) GROUP RECOGNIZED THAT MERIT OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING OF OECD COUNTRIES ON OCCASION OF MARSHALL PLAN COMMEMORATION WOULD DEPEND LARGELY ON WHEN MAJOR COUNTRIES WANT TO HOLD PUERTO-RICO TYPE SUMMIT. OBVIOUSLY IF IT SHOULD BE DECIDED THAT PUERTO-RICO TYPE SUMMIT WERE TO BE HELD IN APRIL OR MAY, AN OECD-WIDE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN JUNE MIGHT BE LESS ATTRACTIVE, ALTHOUGH CONCEIVABLY SMALLER SUMMIT MIGHT STILL HAVE IMPORTANT INITIATIVE(S) TO CONVEY TO LARGER GROUP.

8.) IN SUM, VERY EARLY IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, WE WILL NEED GUIDANCE ON SCENARIO FOR OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING IN RELATION TO SUMMIT AND TO MARSHALL PLAN COMMEMORATION. AS DISCUSSED ABOVE, DEPARTMENT UNDOUBTEDLY WILL KEEP IN MIND SUCH QUESTIONS AS RELATIONSHIP TO NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING MAY 13 AND 14 AND QUESTION OF WHETHER TO HOLD 1977 IEA MINISTERIAL MEETING (CALLED FOR BY SECRETARY KISSINGER TO PROCLAIM REDUCED DEPENDENCY TARGETS) BACK TO BACK WITH OECD MINISTERIAL.

FINALLY, AS OF POSSIBLE RELEVANCE FOR SCENARIO LEADING TO SUMMIT ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH PRESUMABLY WILL BE ATTENDED BY GREENSPAN'S SUCCESSOR IS NOW SET FOR FEBRUARY 28 AND MARCH 1. WE ALSO HAVE HEARD SOME SPECULATION FROM SECRETARIAT ABOUT A POSSIBLE FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING (FORMAT UNCERTAIN) BETWEEN THAT EVENT AND THE SUMMIT AS HELPING TO REFINE JUDGMENTS ON ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND APPROPRIATE POLICY COURSE TO FOLLOW.

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